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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Eugene A. Kowalis of Orland Park; and

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WHEREAS, Eugene Kowalis was born and raised in Bridgeport and attended Tilden High School; and

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WHEREAS, Eugene Kowalis served his country with pride and distinction as a member of the U.S. Army Highway Patrol in Germany during the early 1950s; and

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WHEREAS, In 1954, Eugene Kowalis married his high school sweetheart, Rosemary, and began his career in the auto industry as a Cadillac salesman in Chicago; starting a successful series of car dealerships, he opened Midlothian Mazda in 1971 and Midlothian Toyota in 1977; in 1984, he moved his family to Orland Park and founded Orland Toyota; in 1989, he acquired the Lexus of Orland and Lexus of Merrillville franchises; and

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WHEREAS, Eugene Kowalis was well known in his community as a philanthropist; when his son, Eugene, was born with developmental challenges, he became involved with St. Coletta's, especially the organization's Caritas Society, and the Kennedy School in Tinley Park; and

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1 WHEREAS, Eugene Kowalis is survived by his wife of 54
2 years, Rosemary; his sons, Eugene, Jeff, and Kurt; and his 6
3 grandchildren; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
6 his family and friends, the passing of Eugene A. Kowalis; and
7 be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the family of Eugene A. Kowalis as an expression
10 of our sympathy.